

Announcement on the Forest Conference

March 10, 1993

Beginning the critical work to craft a balanced and comprehensive policy that will save jobs and the unique, precious resources of the old growth forests in the Northwest and northern California, President Clinton today, March 10, announced he will convene a Forest Conference in Portland, OR, on April 2.

"Planning and good long-term management can help us protect jobs and the unique, old growth forests that are as much a part of our national heritage as the Grand Canyon or Yosemite," President Clinton said. "It is time to break the gridlock that has blocked action and bring all sides together to craft a balanced approach to the economic and environmental challenges we face."

The Forest Conference fulfills a commitment by President Clinton to the American people and to the residents of the Northwest and northern California to confront these issues with a thorough review and balanced policy. President Clinton will convene the conference with Vice President Al Gore and members of the Cabinet, including the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, and Labor, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

"We have to take action to protect jobs and recognize the important economic contribution Federal forest lands make to supporting local communities. We owe it to our children and to every generation that follows to preserve this unique treasure with a balanced, long-term policy that recognizes we don't have to sacrifice jobs to protect a unique natural resource," Vice President Gore said.

The President has directed his staff to work closely with the Cabinet Agencies to involve representatives of all parties affected by the management of forests in the Pacific Northwest and California. This will include but not be limited to the Governors of California, Oregon, and Washington, and Members of Congress from the affected States and from the leadership of key congressional committees. And the President has asked the Secretaries of Interior, Agriculture, and

Labor to begin collecting information central to developing comprehensive, long-term policies for forest management and worker and community assistance.

Remarks to Westinghouse Employees in Linthicum, Maryland

March 11, 1993

Thank you very much. I want to say a special word of thanks to the people from Westinghouse who greeted me when I arrived: Gary Clark, who introduced me, Dick Linder, Gladys Green, Rich O'Leary, and Gary Eder. And thank you to all of you who made this tour possible.

I want to thank the Members of the United States Congress who are here, who have worked very hard for a long time and before I became President to help to design a plan to strengthen our economy even as we reduce military spending. Your Senators, Barbara Mikulski and Paul Sarbanes, are here. Your Congressman, Ben Cardin, is here. Senator Jeff Bingaman of New Mexico; Senators Barbara Boxer and Dianne Feinstein of California; Senator Bill Cohen of Maine; Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island; Congressman Martin Frost of Texas; Congresswoman Jane Harman of California; and Congressman Tom Foglietta of Pennsylvania. I think that is the entire delegation here, along with Mayor Kurt Schmoke of Baltimore and Governor Schaefer. I'm glad to see all of them. I have to note here, you can tell who the best politician is. Of all these people I've introduced, only Senator Mikulski found a seat. [*Laughter*]

I'd also like to thank the members of my Cabinet who have helped to work on the statement that I will announce today who are here: the Defense Secretary Les Aspin, Labor Secretary Bob Reich, Veterans Affairs Director Jesse Brown, Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, Commerce Secretary Ron Brown. I want to thank all of them for their work.

All of you know from personal experience how much American industry has been changed by the cutbacks in defense. Defense spending peaked in 1985. And by 1997, it